



African Ministerial Conference on the Environment

Distr.
General

UNEP/AMCEN/12/INF/2
12 May 2008

Original: English

African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
Twelfth session
Johannesburg, 7–12 June 2008

Subregional environmental action plans and the NEPAD national action plans on the environment – an introductory account

1. Capacity-building underpins the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Agenda 21 (chapter 37) defines capacity-building as encompassing "the country's human, scientific, technological, organizational, institutional and resource capabilities. A fundamental goal of capacity-building is to enhance the ability to evaluate and address the crucial questions related to policy choices and modes of implementation among development options, based on an understanding of environmental potentials and limits and of needs as perceived by the people of the country concerned. As a result, the need to strengthen national capacities is shared by all countries". Capacity-building is a knowledge-intensive process requiring the continuous upgrading of skills, organizational capabilities, policies and laws and is therefore a long-term and dynamic process.
2. African countries face numerous challenges in their efforts to implement their commitments under global environmental conventions and to achieve sustainable development. Since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, many agreements and related regulatory instruments have been adopted at the international level to conserve and manage the natural environment and to guide human activities for sustainable development. Today, there are well over 200 relevant multilateral agreements concluded on environmental subjects as diverse as biological diversity, biosafety, transboundary long-range air pollution, the law of the sea, climate change, toxic substances, desertification and protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage. Several environmental agreements have been concluded at the regional and subregional levels.
3. Building the capacity of African countries to implement global environmental conventions has been recognized as one of the priority challenges in the attainment of sustainable development. This recognition is articulated in decisions of conferences of the parties to all major global and regional environmental conventions. As the financial mechanism of the conventions signed in Rio de Janeiro, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) recognized such a need by initiating in 1996 enabling activities and an initiative known as the Capacity Development Initiative. There is a growing commitment by African countries themselves and the international community to investing in strategic and coherent activities that build the region's capacity to implement conventions in a coordinated and comprehensive manner.
4. One of the priority goals of the NEPAD environment initiative is to build Africa's capacity to implement environmental conventions and such related international legal instruments as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity. To respond to such an urgent need, a strategic plan for capacity-building for Africa – to attain the capacity-building goals of the environment

K0840713 160508

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.
--

initiative – has been developed. The plan was organized around clusters of activities and processes that would be implemented over a five-year period (see annex II to the present document).

5. The proposed activities targeted specific needs identified by African countries themselves. The countries were also expected to take overall leadership in implementing the plan, which would build on and complement the GEF Capacity Development Initiative and would aim to attain its overall objectives. The plan was endorsed by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) at the first Partners' Conference on the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD, held in Algiers in December 2003. AMCEN has therefore been implementing aspects of the plan since December 2003.

6. Since capacity-building had been identified as a key element for the effective implementation of NEPAD and its environmental action plan, a capacity-building initiative was adopted in Cairo in October 2003 by the Steering Committee of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/GEF medium-sized project on NEPAD at its fifth meeting and by the first Partners' Conference.

7. At its tenth session, held in Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, in June 2004, AMCEN again emphasized the importance of capacity-building in implementing the action plan and the need to develop subregional action plans as part of capacity-building for the implementation of the NEPAD environment initiative. At that session, AMCEN requested UNEP to provide technical support to the regional economic communities in the development of subregional action plans.

8. The capacity-building initiative comprises the following components:

- (a) Development of a partnership approach for the implementation of the action plan;
- (b) Preparation of subregional NEPAD environment initiative action plans;
- (c) Strengthening the capacity of African countries to implement global and regional environmental agreements of relevance to the action plan;
- (d) Development and implementation of a comprehensive training strategy for the implementation of the action plan;
- (e) Identifying and strengthening African centres of excellence and specialist networks.

9. Since the beginning of 2004, the NEPAD secretariat has been working closely with UNEP/GEF on finalizing the UNEP/GEF-led medium-sized project for a capacity-building programme for the development of subregional environmental action plans. The project received funding from GEF and the Governments of Belgium and Norway and was aimed at assisting African countries in implementing the NEPAD environmental action plan. The main components of the project were:

- (a) The development of five subregional environmental action plans;
- (b) Human and institutional capacity-building;
- (c) Synergistic implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

10. An account of the development of the five subregional action plans in Africa is given in the present document. The secretariats of NEPAD and AMCEN, in addition to UNEP/GEF, worked together to ensure the project's completion. It is envisaged that they would also collaborate during the implementation phase of the subregional environmental action plans. Description of the work undertaken regarding the two other components (i.e., human and institutional capacity-building and synergistic implementation of multilateral environmental agreements) is contained in document UNEP/AMCEN/11/3/Add.1.

11. The objective of this component of the medium-sized project was to develop five subregional environmental action plans, each covering a different subregion: North Africa; the Economic Community of West African States; the Intergovernmental Authority on Development; the Economic Community of Central African States and the Southern African Development Community, respectively. The action plans were developed in such a way as to ensure ownership by the subregions and to take into account the peculiarities of each subregion.

12. In that context, UNEP, GEF and the NEPAD secretariat provided financial and technical support to the regional economic communities to develop the action plans for all the subregions in Africa. Consultative meetings of experts – which included representatives of regional economic communities, national ministries of environment and civil society organizations, together with development partners working in the region – were held to review each of the draft action plans. The meetings were held in Central Africa (Libreville), Eastern Africa (Djibouti), Northern Africa (Algiers),

Southern Africa (Gaborone) and West Africa (Abuja) during 2005. The revised draft action plans were also circulated to countries, regional economic communities and development partners for their further comments.

13. Ministerial-level consultative meetings on the action plans for Eastern, Central, Southern, North and West Africa were held from 28 to 30 March, on 7 and 8 April, from 25 to 27 April, on 4 and 5 June and from 25 to 27 June 2007, respectively. The main objectives of the ministerial level meetings were to review the finalized action plans with a view to their endorsement by the ministers of environment in the respective subregions and to discuss the modalities, where appropriate, for submitting the action plans to the respective councils of the regional economic communities.

14. The action plans were endorsed by the ministers of the various subregions, who requested the respective vice-presidents to submit their plans to AMCEN at its twelfth session, scheduled to be held in South Africa in June 2008. Accordingly, these action plans will be submitted by the respective vice-presidents of AMCEN at the Conference's twelfth session. The resolutions adopted by the ministers in the subregions can be found in annex I to the present document. The reports on the action plans will be published and circulated to member States in due course.

15. In response to the request from AMCEN for the development of NEPAD national action plans on the environment, the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, with financial support from Norway, has provided assistance to five pilot countries to develop such action plans. Initial consultations on the development of the national action plans for Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Mozambique have been held. These involved field missions to the above-mentioned countries. Those countries will make a presentation on the development of the NEPAD national action plans in their respective countries to the twelfth session of AMCEN.

Annex I

Central Africa

Ministerial resolutions

Resolution on the Central Africa sub-regional environmental action plan

We, the Ministers of Environment of Central Africa sub-region,

Referring to the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, from 26 August to 4 September 2002 and its chapter VIII on sustainable development for Africa,

Referring to the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000,

Referring also to the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development adopted on 16 September 2002 by the General Assembly, at a high-level plenary meeting,

Referring to the adoption of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in July 2003 by the African Union Summit held in Maputo, Mozambique,

Considering the priorities outlined in the sub-regional environmental action plan for Central African States to combat the deterioration of soils and desertification,

Considering the need to integrate various plans and actions with the aim of harmonizing them at the sub-region level,

Considering the enactments of the Treaty establishing the Commission of Central Africa Forests (COMIFAC) and its related organizations, whose mission is among other things, to facilitate the harmonization of national policies regarding the environment and forests,

Recognizing the efforts being made to implement the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Congratulating the African Union, the NEPAD Secretariat, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, and the Economic Community of Central African States for their coordinating and facilitating role in the implementation of the action plan for the environment initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD),

Decide to:

Endorse the sub-regional environmental action plan for Central African States;

Invite the Central African representative on the Bureau of the African ministerial conference on the environment to submit the said Action plan for endorsement at the 12th ordinary session for adoption;

Require the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to make arrangements for the implementation of the Action Plan of the NEPAD initiative for central Africa;

Invite ECCAS to make arrangements to coordinate the implementation of the sub-regional environmental action plan for Central African States jointly with other sub - regional organizations and central African States;

Request that Central African States make arrangements to initiate the implementation of the sub-regional environmental action plan for Central African States.

Done in Brazzaville, 08 April 2007

Resolution on the general policy of the economic states of Central Africa on matters related to the environment and management of natural resources

We, the Ministers of Environment of Central Africa sub-region,

Referring to the Libreville Treaty of 18th October 1983, establishing the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), including its Articles 4, 43 and 54, defining the crucial mission of ECCAS, as being, among others, to harmonize States' policies concerning sustainable management of natural resources,

Considering the Rio de Janeiro Declaration and Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development held in June 1992,

Considering, the Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development of August 2002,

Considering the recommendations of the African Union Commission on the rationalization and the revitalization of the continent's regional institutions,

Persuaded of the need to unite with the view to having joint and responsible management of our natural resources for the benefit of future as well as current generations,

Reaffirming our commitment to cooperate with each other on the issues of environment and management of natural resources within the structure of the ECCAS mandate on the conservation of ecosystems and the biodiversity of the Central African region ,

Considering the need to increase partners' assistance to development for sustainable management of the natural resources of our states under the auspices of ECCAS,

Expressing the will to reinforce regional integration in the framework of the Pan African Process on the protection of the environment supported by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the NEPAD Secretariat,

Taking into account the priorities outlined in the sub-regional environmental action plan to combat the deterioration of soils and desertification,

Considering the need to integrate various plans and programs with the aim of reconciling actions at the sub-regional level;

Considering the enactments of the Treaty establishing the Commission of Central African Forests (COMIFAC) and its related organizations which state that its mission is, among others, to facilitate the harmonization of national policies on forests and the environment;

Recognizing that the forest is one of shared natural resources of Central Africa and that its concerted management can contribute effectively to subregional integration and the safeguarding of the environment,

Having endorsed the subregional environmental action plan for Central African States,

Decide to:

Endorse the General Policies of the ECCAS relating to the environment and natural resources ;

Request that the Economic Community for Central African States:

- Establish a network of national focal points for the sub-regional environmental action plan for Central African States;
- Make arrangements for its implementation in accordance with its decision making processes and the subregional environmental action plan for Central Africa;
- Enhance the capacity of the proposed Management of environment and natural resources with the aim of strengthening it and making it operational;
- Start a process of mobilizing the necessary resources for the implementation of the said policies in States, particularly as concerns the strengthening of their operational capacities;

- Organise an annual meeting of ministers responsible for the environment in this subregion.

Done in Brazzaville, 08th April 2007
The Ministerial Conference.

Vote of Thanks

We, the participants at this meeting of Ministers of Environment of Central Africa,

Express our deep gratitude to the Government and the people of the Republic of Congo for accepting to host this meeting in their country and for the warm reception we received during our stay in Congo.

We are particularly grateful to His Excellency Mr Denis SASSOU NGUESSO, President of the Republic of Congo, Head of State, Current President of the ECCAS, for without His kind support, our meeting would not have been held.

Done in Brazzaville, 08th April 2007
The Ministerial Conference

Eastern Africa

Ministerial resolutions

Resolution on the Eastern Africa sub-regional environmental action plan

We, the Ministers of Environment of Eastern Africa sub-region,

Recalling the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, from 26 August to 4 September 2002 and its chapter VIII on sustainable development for Africa,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2000,

Recalling also the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development adopted on 16 September 2002 by the General Assembly, at a high-level plenary meeting,

Recalling the adoption of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development in July 2003 by the African Union Summit held in Maputo, Mozambique,

Acknowledging the efforts being made to implement the action plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Recalling Decision 1 of the tenth regular session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Sirte, Libya in June 2004, regarding the development of the Sub-regional Environmental Action Plans of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Expressing our appreciation to the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility for their support in the development and of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Acknowledging the role of the African Union, NEPAD Secretariat, Regional Economic Communities and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in coordinating and facilitating the development of the Sub-regional Environmental Action Plan as an integral part of the implementation of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

Resolve to:

Endorse the Eastern Africa Sub-regional Environmental Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

Invite the Eastern Africa representative on the Bureau of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to submit the Eastern Africa Sub-regional Environmental Action Plan to the twelfth regular session of AMCEN for adoption;

Urge Eastern African Regional Economic Communities to take measures to initiate the implementation of the Eastern Africa Sub-regional Environmental Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

Call upon the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development to take measures to initiate coordination, in collaboration with the East African Community, to implement the Eastern Africa Sub-regional Environmental Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

Urge Eastern African countries to take measures to initiate the implementation of the Eastern Africa Sub-regional Environmental Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Resolution of the Ministers of IGAD member States on the environment and natural resources

We, Ministers of Environment and Natural Resources of IGAD member states of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda, have held a meeting in Nairobi, Kenya on March 30 2007;

Convinced that the severe degradation of natural resources, and the environment have resulted in high vulnerability of the livelihoods of the population and posed a great threat to sustainable development of the region,

Reaffirming our commitment to cooperate in the field of environmental protection and management of natural resources of the region in accordance with the Charter Establishing IGAD,

Noting the need for increased donor assistance through existing instruments and facilities based on commitment made at previous UN forums including the UN Rio-de Janeiro Declaration; the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Expressing the desire to enhance integration into the Pan-African Environment Protection Process as outlined by AMCEN and NEPAD and endorsed by AU in Maputo in July 2003 on management of environment and natural resources,

Recalling the 11th IGAD Summit Decisions of March 2006 on measures to intensify the cooperation between Secretariats of IGAD, NEPAD and Global Mechanism of the UNCCD, in the implementation of the IGAD Sub-regional Action Plan; within the context of the implementation of the UNCCD,

Having considered and endorsed the NEPAD sub-regional Action Plan for Eastern Africa, the recommendations from the IGAD Environment Outlook and the IGAD Environment and Natural Resources Strategy,

Resolve to:

Develop common approaches in national environmental policies taking into account peculiarities and interests of each country including, harmonizing environmental policies and strategies, environment management tools such as economic instruments, effective implementation of national and sub-regional environmental action plans; as well as the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building;

Create a regional information network in the field of environmental protection and management of natural resources taking into account existing national, sub-regional and regional initiatives;

Encourage Private-Public Partnership to tackle the environmental problems in accordance with IGAD Summit Decision of 2002 in Khartoum, Sudan;

Enhance synergies among and implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and Conventions to which our member states are Parties.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_16251

